



GRASS-to-XERISCAPE

Landscape Rebate Application



STEP 1 – READ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, THEN FILL OUT THE APPLICATION BELOW.

(Please Print)

Name/Property Owner

Home Phone

Work Phone

Cell Phone

Street Address

City

State

Zip

If You Live in a Gated Community, Access Code Please

Property Address (if different from above)

☐ Front Yard

☐ Back Yard

Square Feet of Grass You Plan to Remove

Check All That Apply

I have read and agree to comply with all rebate program requirements (attached) and understand that starting without City of Mesa approval will make my conversion ineligible.

Signature of Applicant (property owner)

Date

STEP 2 – MAIL IN YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH REQUIRED INFORMATION.

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

City of Mesa Environmental & Sustainability Programs

PO Box 1466

Mesa, AZ 85211-1466

Please make a sketch on the back of this application or
attach photos of areas where you will be removing the grass.



STEP 3 – WAIT TO RECEIVE APPROVAL FROM THE CITY OF MESA BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR CONVERSION (ALLOW THREE WEEKS FOR US TO RESPOND TO YOUR APPLICATION).

STEP 4 – CONTACT US ONCE YOU COMPLETE YOUR LANDSCAPE CONVERSION PROJECT (YOU WILL HAVE SIX MONTHS FROM YOUR APPROVED-TO-PROCEED DATE)

AREA FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Account/Premise Number

Preliminary Inspection

Date

Initial

Comments: _____

Turf Measure Sq. Ft.

Final Inspection

Date

Initial

\$500.00

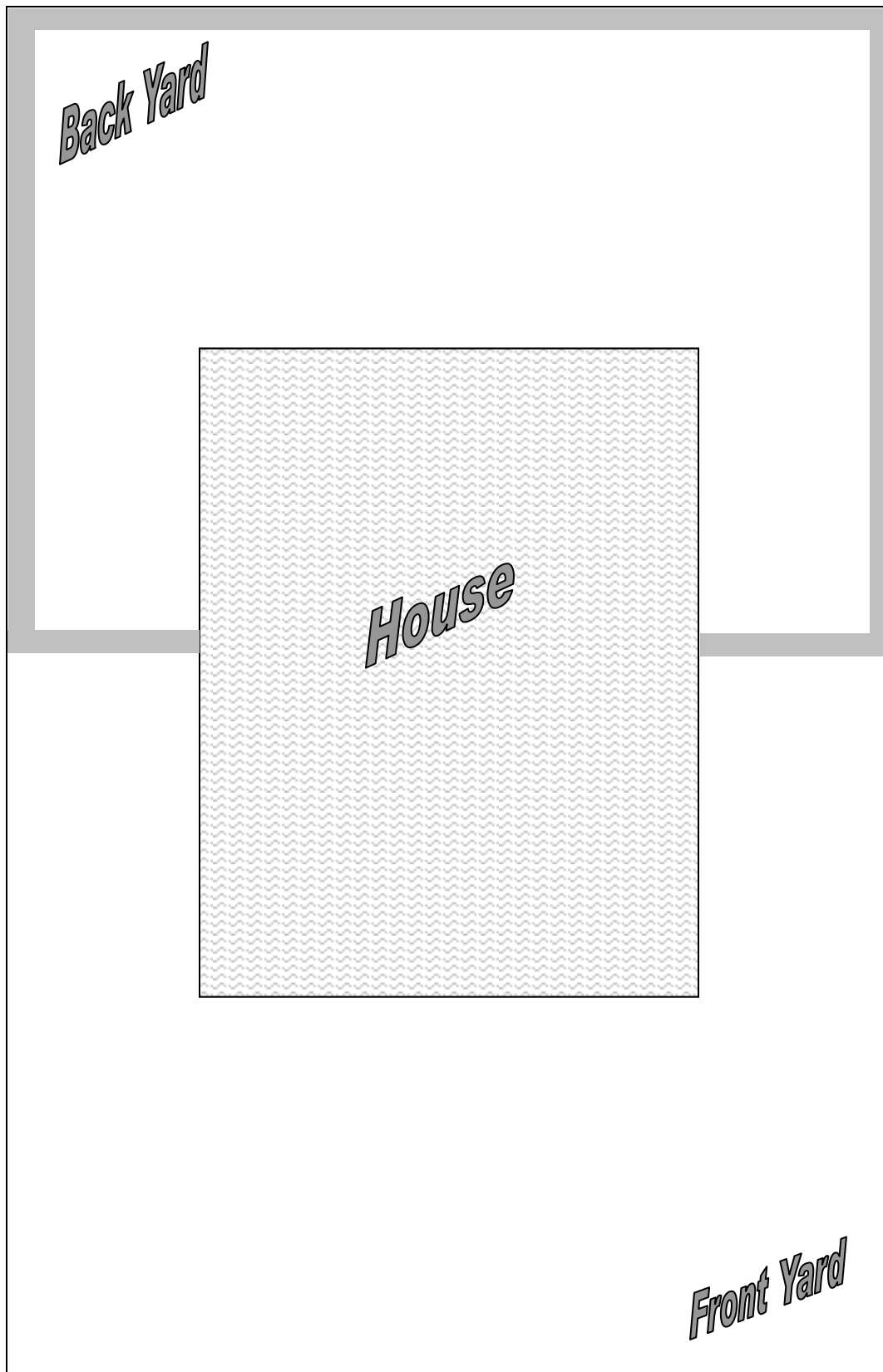
Processed for Payment

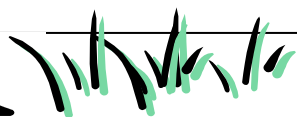
Date

Initial

Total Rebate Amount

**Provide a rough sketch indicating location of grass to be removed.
(or include photo or photos)**





GRASS-to-XERISCAPE

Landscape Rebate Program



Did you know that more than half of the water used by homeowners can be spent on outdoor watering?

If you currently have a landscape consisting of grass, converting it into an attractive low-water using landscape is one of the best ways to conserve water and energy, save money on your water bill, and create a landscape that is much easier to maintain. To assist our customers with this water-saving alternative, the City of Mesa is offering a *Grass-to-Xeriscape* rebate.

ABOUT THE REBATE PROGRAM

The purpose of the *Grass-to-Xeriscape* program is to help our single-family residential customers reduce their landscape water use by half or more by replacing their water-thirsty lawns with landscape plants appropriate to our Sonoran Desert climate. When you remove 500 square feet or more of established grass and replace it with a water-thrifty landscape, you will receive a \$500 rebate from the City of Mesa.

WHAT DOES XERISCAPE MEAN?

Xeriscape (zeer-a-scape) is a term that defines a creative approach to landscaping that includes the use of well-adapted plants, efficient irrigation, careful design, and proper maintenance. When used together, these principles produce superior landscapes that save both water and energy. *Xeriscape* also creates or replaces habitat needed by wildlife, and helps to create shade for people, our homes, and our communities.

REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY TO QUALIFY

Read these guidelines prior to filling out your application.

1. The applicant must be the current owner of a single-family home and a City of Mesa water customer.
2. **Contact us before you start!** The rebate is not retroactive prior to the approval date, and is not applicable to conversion projects that take place without the approval of the City of Mesa.
3. Grass must be relatively healthy. Under this program 'healthy' shall be defined as routinely irrigated and manicured with an average coverage of 70 percent.
4. The converted area must be replaced with low-water using plants that, when fully mature, will cover at least 50 percent of the area (grass cannot be replaced with just artificial turf or rock). See next page (reverse) for details.
5. No fountains exist on the property unless they are a cascading, or non-spray design.
6. No body of water exists on the property that has a surface area greater than 1,000 square feet.
7. Spray irrigation and non-pervious materials such as black plastic sheeting are not permitted in the rebated area. A concrete surface cannot take up more than 25 percent of the rebated area.
8. The new landscape must be covered with a minimum of a 2" deep layer of organic or inorganic mulch (such as granite or rock). Other materials may qualify.
9. The grass removal or installation of the *Xeriscape* must not conflict with other City of Mesa landscaping requirements as prescribed by existing policies, procedures, or ordinances.
10. Homeowners who are members of a Homeowner's Association (HOA) must ensure that the new landscape complies with HOA Covenants, Codes & Restrictions (CC&Rs).
11. Only one rebate is allowed per property.
12. The following would not be eligible:
 - a. New residential homes built within the past year of the application date.
 - b. Any properties that are not single-family residential, including common areas owned by HOAs.
 - c. Any grass areas that are watered by wells or flood irrigation water.



INSPECTIONS AND DEADLINES FOR APPLICANTS

The property will be inspected and a photograph taken before the conversion/installation takes place. The applicant then has a six-month period to complete the conversion. Upon completion, the property will be re-inspected to ensure compliance with the *Grass-to-Xeriscape* requirements. If the conversion fails inspection, the applicant will be allowed 60 days or the remaining six-month period, whichever is greater, to fully comply with the program requirements.

The *Grass-to-Xeriscape* rebate program, effective July 25, 2007, will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Continuation of the program is subject to the availability of funds. Program requirements are subject to change.

PROCEDURE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Read these requirements before filling out the application. Be sure to contact us for a conversion packet if you have not yet received one. It contains helpful booklets and ideas to get you through the process. If you have any questions or need to request an application or conversion packet, call 480-644-3306 or visit www.mesaaz.gov/conservation.

How to Determine Proper Plant Coverage

As noted in number four of the requirements, the converted area must be replaced with low-water using plants that, when fully mature, will cover at least 50 percent of the area (grass cannot be replaced with just rock). The chart below will help to determine the minimum number of new plants needed for the converted area. Planting additional trees and shrubs, however, is not discouraged. Preservation of existing trees and shrubs is encouraged and may qualify as part of plant replacement requirements if they are currently located in the converted area.

The charts contain the same plants listed in our booklet, Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert, and have been categorized by approximate square feet of coverage at maturity. Once you have determined the square feet of grass you are removing, cut that in half, then select the number and type of plants that add up to the amount you need. For example, if you remove 600 sq. ft. of grass, cut that amount in half (600 sq. ft. ÷ 2 = 300 sq. ft.). Find the combination of plants you need that will provide 300 sq. ft. of coverage. Two medium trees (150 sq. ft. + 150 sq. ft. = 300 sq. ft.), or possibly one large tree and one large shrub (225 sq. ft. + 75 sq. ft. = 300 sq. ft.), etc.

This is not an all-inclusive list and many more plants, such as cacti, succulents, vines, and desert perennials would qualify. The complete list is based on a comprehensive low-water using plant list compiled by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. For a copy, visit http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/WaterManagement/AMAs/documents/LWU_Plants1.pdf.

COVERAGE PROVIDED BY PLANTS AT MATURITY

| Small Shrubs & Groundcovers | Medium Shrubs & Groundcovers | Large Shrubs & Groundcovers | Small Trees | Medium Trees | Large Trees |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| 10 square feet of coverage | 30 square feet of coverage | 75 square feet of coverage | 75 square feet of coverage | 150 square feet of coverage | 225 square feet of coverage |
| <i>Abutilon palmeri</i> Superstition Mallow | <i>Aloysia gratissima</i> Bee brush | <i>Acacia redolens</i> Trailing Acacia | <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> Leather-Leaf Acacia | <i>Acacia berlandieri</i> Guajillo | <i>Acacia farnesiana</i> Sweet Acacia |
| <i>Ambrosia deltoidea</i> Triangleleaf Bursage | <i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> Flame Honeysuckle | <i>Atriplex canescens</i> Fourwing Saltbush | <i>Acacia willardiana</i> Palo Blanco | <i>Acacia constricta</i> White Thorn Acacia | <i>Acacia salicina</i> Willow Acacia |
| <i>Cephalophyllum cultivar</i> Red Spike Ice Plant | <i>Baccharis hybrid</i> Desert Broom | <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> Bougainvillea | <i>Bauhinia lunarioides</i> Anacacho Orchid Tree | <i>Acacia rigidula</i> Blackbrush Acacia | <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> Shoestring Acacia |
| <i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i> Damianita | <i>Berberis trifoliolata</i> Barberry | <i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i> Mexican Bird of Par. | <i>Brahea armata</i> Mexican Blue Palm | <i>Caesalpinia cacalaco</i> Cascalote | <i>Celtis reticulata</i> Canyon Hackberry |
| <i>Convolvulus cneorum</i> Bush Morning Glory | <i>Buddleia marrubifolia</i> Woolly Butterfly Bush | <i>Celtis pallida</i> Desert Hackberry | <i>Chamaerops humilis</i> Mediterranean Fan Palm | <i>Cercidium microphyllum</i> Foothill Palo Verde | <i>Cercidium floridum</i> Blue Palo Verde |
| <i>Ephedra nevadensis</i> Desert Tea | <i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i> Yel. Bird of Paradise | <i>Cordia boissieri</i> Texas Olive | <i>Eysenhardtia orthocarpa</i> Kidneywood | <i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i> Red-Cap Gum | <i>Cercidium hybrid</i> Hybrid Palo Verde |
| <i>Ericameria laricifolia</i> Turpentine Bush | <i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> Red Bird of Paradise | <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Hop Bush | <i>Ungnadia speciosa</i> Mexican Buckeye | <i>Lysiloma microphylla</i> Feather Bush | <i>Cercidium praecox</i> Palo Brea |
| <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> Flattop Buckwheat | <i>Calliandra species</i> Fairy Dusters | <i>Fraxinus greggii</i> Little-leaf Ash | | <i>Pithecellobium flexicaule</i> Texas Ebony | <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> Desert Willow |
| <i>Euphorbia rigida</i> Blue Euphorbia | <i>Cordia parvifolia</i> Little-Leaf Cordia | <i>Lycium fremontii</i> Wolfberry | | <i>Pithecellobium pallens</i> Tenaza | <i>Chorisia speciosa</i> Floss-Silk Tree |
| <i>Gazania rigens</i> Trailing Gazania | <i>Dalea species</i> Dalea (all) | <i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> Myoporum | | | <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Indian Rosewood |
| <i>Justicia candicans</i> Red Justicia | <i>Encelia farinosa</i> Brittlebush | <i>Simmondsia chinensis</i> Jojoba | | | <i>Eucalyptus microtheca</i> Coolibah |
| <i>Oenothera caespitosa</i> Tufted Eve. Primrose | <i>Eremophila species</i> Eremophila (all) | <i>Sophora secundiflora</i> Texas Mnt. Laurel | | | <i>Olea europea</i> Fruitless Olive |
| <i>Plumbago scandens</i> White Plumbago | <i>Gossypium harknessii</i> San Marcos Hibiscus | <i>Tecoma species</i> Yellow/Orange Bells | | | <i>Olneya tesota</i> Ironwood |
| <i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> Katie Ruellia | <i>Guaiacum coulteri</i> Guayacan | <i>Tecomaria capensis</i> Cape Honeysuckle | | | <i>Pinus eldarica</i> Afghan Pine |
| <i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> Creeping Germander | <i>Hamelia patens</i> Firecracker Bush | <i>Vauquelinia californica</i> Arizona Rosewood | | | <i>Pistacia chinensis</i> Chinese Pistache |
| <i>Viguiera deltoidea</i> Golden Eye | <i>Hyptis emoryi</i> Desert Lavender | <i>Wedelia trilobata</i> Yellow Dot | | | <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> Mastic Tree |
| | <i>Justicia californica</i> Chuparosa | <i>Zizyphus obtusifolia</i> Greythorn | | | <i>Pithecellobium mexicanum</i> Mexican Ebony |
| | <i>Lantana hybrid</i> Lantanas (all) | | | | <i>Prosopis species</i> Mesquite (all) |
| | <i>Larrea tridentata</i> Creosote Bush | Medium Shrubs continued... | | | <i>Quercus virginiana</i> Live Oak |
| | <i>Leucophyllum species</i> Texas Sage (all) | <i>Oenothera stubbei</i> Saltillo Primrose | | | <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> Evergreen Elm |
| | <i>Malephora crocea</i> Gray Ice Plant | <i>Punica granatum</i> Pomegranate | | | <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> Chaste Tree |
| | <i>Maytenus phyllanthoides</i> Mangle Dulce | <i>Rhus ovata</i> Sugar Bush | | | |
| | <i>Myrtus communis</i> Myrtle | <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> Rosemary | | | |
| | <i>Nerium oleander</i> Oleander | <i>Ruellia peninsularis</i> Baja Ruellia | | | |
| | More medium shrubs See next column → | <i>Senna artemisioides</i> Senna/Cassia (all) | | | |